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ing says, "a third may be added should sufficient material be at hand, and the author be spared to write it." All who are interested in the history of the Catholic Church in this country will understand his wishes in that quaint sentence and will add their prayers to those of his fellow-priests of Pittsburgh that he may be spared not only to complete this great work,—the result of a lifetime's study, but also to give us other equally interesting and instructive works. This is a book which should be found in every Catholic home in Western Pennsylvania. The children, who are growing up, can find no better or more practical examples of saintly hearts in whose lives the two bright fires of Love of God and Love of Country burned steadily, lighting all around them with larger hope, fuller charity and sturdier faith in the things that are above.

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**An Interesting Bit of Local History.** A brief Sketch of St. James's Roman Catholic Church, Wilksburg, Pa. By the Rector, Rev. A. A. Lambing, D. D., Pittsburgh, 1914 (pp. 60).

On the appearance of the first number of the *Historical Researches*, which Monsignor Lambing founded thirty years ago, there was one at least who saw in prophetic vision the Awakening which was just then beginning in the Catholic historical field. At that time, he was fast making his name known as one of the foremost American writers, and in a letter which he sent to the then Father Lambing, he grows enthusiastic over the interest taken on all sides in that field. After mentioning the work of several who have since become foundation-stones in Catholic American history, he says: "I never knew a greater interest to be felt or shown in the history of Notre Mere la Ste. Eglise Catholique Apostolique et Romaine in this part of the world." John Gilmary Shea's words must have proved an incentive to Mgr. Lambing, for in the little brochure we have before us, already are traceable the grand divisions of his second volume of biographical sketches of the Pittsburgh diocese. It is a model publication, and well serves to preserve to future generations the main facts of a very interesting parochial history. There are few parishes which could not boast of similar historical narratives of their birth and growth, if the Catholic laity were more responsive in buying the same.

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**The Catholic Church in the City and Diocese of Richmond.** Rev. Joseph Magri. 1906.

A brief history of the Diocese of Richmond by the Reverend Father Joseph Magri published in 1906 has come to our hands for notice.

The work opens with a description of the new Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and of the ceremonies of the dedication on November 29, 1906. The work then sketches the growth of Catholicism in Virginia from 1526 to 1832 in the second chapter. It describes the abortive attempts of Menendez, the Governor of Florida, to found a Catholic colony in Virginia, and the labors of Jesuit missionaries. Father Carroll writing in 1785, four years before his consecration as bishop, stated that not a single priest could be found in all Virginia, and that it was his opinion that no Catholic families existed in the state at that time. Our author thinks this not at all surprising considering the existing religious laws and estimates that in the entire 13 states in 1785 there were less than fifty priests and 25,000 laymen.

With the coming of the Reverend Jean Dubois and a few other refugee French priests, we may associate the permanent planting of the Church in Virginia. In 1820, on the petition of the Catholics of Norfolk, the Pope created the diocese of Richmond and appointed as its first bishop the Reverend Patrick Kelley, then President of Birchfield College near Kilkenny, Ireland. For two years the Bishop struggled with financial difficulties, supporting himself by teaching school and then on his own petition was transferred to the See of Waterford and Lismore in Ireland. From 1832 to 1850 the untiring labors of Rev. Timothy O'Brien reaped an abundant harvest, so that in 1840 the Virginia diocese was again set off from Baltimore and the Right Reverend Bishop Whelan was consecrated as its ordinary. This devoted man "had the rare knack of doing a multiplicity of things and of doing everything well." He would tramp miles through the snows and arrive at his post with frost-bitten feet and proceed at once to his priestly duties. He said: "If pastors wished to be consoled with fervent and self-sacrificing congregations they must themselves set them the example. To win the confidence of their flocks they should make them feel that the shepherds are always punctual at their posts whether the sheep are fatigued or not."

The attitude of Bishop McGill the successor of Bishop Whelan towards the Confederate cause is touched on. He urged all his flock whether native or foreign born to remember their solemn duty to fight for the land of their home. The restrictions of the military authorities on the movements of non-combatants gave the Bishop leisure to compose two books: *The True Church Indicated to the Inquirer* and *Our Faith the Victory*, later published as *The Creed of Catholics*. The latter book has been compared with Moehler's *Symbolism*.

The last three chapters covering the period 1872 to 1906 describe the work of Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop Keane and Bishop Van de Vyver as the guiding hands of the diocese. In view of the large number of

personal references to various priests and religious communities these chapters necessarily have the brevity and disjointedness of a mediæval chronicle. The work closes with a glowing eulogy to Bishop Van de Vyver and a hopeful outlook on the future.

It is to be hoped that Father Magri's example will be imitated in many dioceses, so that much that is stimulating in the life of our forefathers may not be covered by the dust of time. The work is enriched by many illustrations of the new Richmond Cathedral and of the various bishops.

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**Life in America One Hundred Years Ago.** By Gaillard Hunt, Litt. D., LL. D. Illustrated, \$1.50 net, Harper & Bros., New York.

This book, as the preface tells us, is a contribution to the celebration of the one hundred year's peace between Great Britain and the United States, and was written at the request of the Committee of One Hundred. It is a picture of the life and manners of the people of the United States when they first secured their full independence, and started that wonderful march towards prosperity which has placed them among the leading nations. The lay reader, who regards history as something to be avoided, because it is merely a record of the acts of statesmen, rulers, legislative assemblies, armies and navies, and far removed from the realities of life with which he is familiar, will have no reason to leave Mr. Hunt's volume severely alone, because it is not a history in the popularly accepted meaning of this term, but rather a transcript of the life of the people in the good old pre-railway, pre-telegraph days. Mr. Hunt takes the reader into the intimacies of the lives of the common people, shows us them when they were on parade and not on parade, with all their private virtues, and vices, their customs, and their costumes, their amusements and their troubles, and the numerous other insignificant things which make up life for the ordinary human being, that the more pretentious historian is compelled to overlook. It should not be inferred however that this book is merely a frothy description of manners, for there is much solid information and fact in its pages of great use to the student as well as to the general reader.

The author has a fairly vivid pen and has contrived to impart much of the atmosphere of a century ago to his pages. The method he has pursued however in writing the book militates somewhat against a really true and complete atmosphere. A brief recapitulation of the headings of some of the chapters will serve to illustrate what is meant by this: "Peace," "A New Order," "The Land," "The People,"